

Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

State of Louisiana

Profile of Drug Indicators

September 2002



ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse staff compiled this profile by using the most recent data available from open sources. The data presented are as accurate as the sources from which they were drawn. The information contained in this profile should not be used to rank or compare States or jurisdictions, due to differences in data collection and reporting methods.

Louisiana

The following profile contains information on demographics, political figures, programs, crime, drug use, drug trafficking, and enforcement statistics.

Demographics¹

- Population: 4,468,976 (2000 Census); 4,219,973 (1990 Census)
- Race/Ethnicity (2000 Census): 62.5% white; 32.3% black/African American; 0.5% American Indian/Alaska Native; 1.2% Asian; 0.0% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 0.1% other race; 0.9% two or more races; 2.4% Hispanic/Latino origin

Politics

- Governor: M.J. “Mike” Foster²
- Lieutenant Governor: Kathleen Babineaux Blanco³
- Attorney General: Richard P. Ieyoub⁴
- Secretary of State: Fox McKeithen⁵
- U.S. Senate: John Breaux (D), Mary Landrieu (D)⁶
- U.S. Representatives (Districts 1-7, respectively): David Vitter; William J. Jefferson; W.J. Tauzin; Jim McCrery; John Cooksey; Richard H. Baker; Christopher John⁷
- Capital: Baton Rouge⁸

Programs/Initiatives

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)⁹
Designated in 1996, the Gulf Coast HIDTA is responsible for 12 counties/parishes in Louisiana, Alabama, and Mississippi. Violent drug trafficking organizations and a recent growth in methamphetamine traffic have contributed to a serious localized drug problem. The Gulf Coast HIDTA is responsible for the following Louisiana Parishes: Caddo, East Baton Rouge, Jefferson, and Orleans.

Federal Funding

- Drug-Free Communities Support Program grantees in Louisiana awarded funding by ONDCP in conjunction with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention:¹⁰
 - FY 2001:
 - \$100,000 to Ascension United Against Substance Abuse, Donaldsonville
 - \$100,000 to the Baton Rouge Partnership for the Prevention of Juvenile Gun Violence, Baton Rouge
 - FY 2000:
 - \$100,000 to the Substance Abuse Services Alliance, Metairie
 - FY 1999 and 1998:
 - No Louisiana grantees
- Executive Office for Weed and Seed¹¹
There are currently eight sites in Louisiana that have received funding and officially been recognized as Weed and Seed sites: Jefferson Parish; LaFourche Parish; New Orleans (three sites); Shreveport (two sites); and Terrebonne Parish.

- FY 2001/2002 SAMHSA Formula and Discretionary Grant Summary for Louisiana:¹²
 - Formula Funding - \$32,966,263
 - Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant - \$25,826,897
 - Community Mental Health Services Block Grant - \$6,231,637
 - Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) - \$477,000
 - Protection and Advocacy Formula Grant - \$430,729
 - Discretionary Funding - \$8,207,180
 - Mental Health - \$1,009,556
 - Substance Prevention - \$5,021,000
 - Substance Abuse Treatment - \$2,176,624
 - Total Mental Health Funds: \$8,148,922
 - Total Substance Abuse Funds: \$33,024,521
 - Total Funds for Louisiana: \$41,173,443
- FY 2002 Byrne Formula Grant Program amount awarded to Louisiana: \$7,795,473¹³
- FY 2001 Residential Substance Abuse Treatment for State Prisoners Formula Grant amount allocated to Louisiana: \$1,494,777¹⁴

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- Within the Gulfcoast HIDTA area, there are approximately 380 identified drug trafficking organizations.¹⁵
- In 2000, there were more than 18,000 arrests for drug abuse violations in Louisiana. 2,215 of the arrests involved juveniles.¹⁶

Number of Arrests, Selected Offenses, Louisiana, 2000

Offense	Juveniles	Total
Murder and non-negligent manslaughter	20	286
Forcible rape	43	376
Robbery	203	1,152
Aggravated assault	1,326	8,468
Burglary	1,684	5,265
Larceny-theft	4,963	19,751
Motor vehicle theft	318	867
Arson	95	215
Drug abuse violations	2,215	18,194
Driving Under the Influence	175	13,159
Liquor laws	543	2,263

- During 2001, agencies that make up Louisiana's Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force (MJTF) program made 9,198 drug-related arrests.¹⁷

Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force Arrests, Louisiana, 1998-2001

	1998	1999	2000	2001
Under age 18	589	648	413	537
Over age 18	7,353	7,446	6,545	8,661
Total arrests	7,942	8,094	6,958	9,198

- Among agencies that operate with non-MJTF grants, there were 4,200 drug-related arrests in 2001. This is down from approximately 5,200 arrests in 2000.¹⁸
- Preliminary data for January to September 2001 indicate that 46.2 percent of adult male arrestees in New Orleans tested positive for marijuana at arrest.¹⁹

Arrestee Positive Drug Results, New Orleans, Jan.-Sept. 2001

Drug Type	Percent Positive
Cocaine	37.2%
Opiates	15.3
Marijuana	46.2
Methamphetamine	0.0
PCP	0.0
Any of above drugs	68.8
Multiple drugs	24.2

Drugs

- Cocaine²⁰

Cocaine abuse is not confined solely to large cities in Louisiana but is also found in rural areas. Crack cocaine is the drug most often associated with violent crime throughout the state.
- Heroin

With the exception of the greater New Orleans area, heroin distribution and abuse do not pose significant threats in Louisiana.²¹ Injection is the preferred method of heroin administration for young, inner-city users because it is the fastest, most efficient method. Although syringes can be purchased without a prescription in Louisiana, there is resistance on the part of the user to purchase new needles. Louisiana treatment counselors believe this is because of paraphernalia laws allowing police to test for the presence of heroin in a person's system if he/she is in possession of a needle.²²
- Marijuana²³

While most of the marijuana consumed in Louisiana is grown in Mexico and smuggled across the Southwest Border, police report that the market for high-quality indoor-produced marijuana is increasing.
- Methamphetamine

Recently, methamphetamine has begun competing with marijuana as the drug of choice in Louisiana.²⁴ Many police in northern Louisiana report an increase in domestic violence related to methamphetamine abuse. Methamphetamine's lower cost and longer lasting effects have attracted some crack users in the state. An increase in methamphetamine use at raves has been reported.²⁵
- Other Drugs
 - Club drug abuse and distribution among young people is on the rise in Louisiana. Baton Rouge has surpassed New Orleans as the Louisiana city with the significant rave scene.²⁶
 - The illegal diversion, distribution and abuse of oxycodone drugs, particularly OxyContin, has become a significant threat in Louisiana, especially in the

southeast parishes of the state. OxyContin is being abused at a rate many law enforcement officials describe as epidemic.²⁷

Juveniles

- A 2001 survey of high school students in Louisiana (excluding New Orleans) showed that over forty-five percent of male students reported using marijuana at least once during their lives.²⁸

Percent of High School Students Using Selected Drugs, Louisiana*, 2001

Drug Use and Type	Female	Male	Total
Lifetime marijuana use	32.8	45.2	38.1
Current marijuana use	14.3	25.3	18.9
Lifetime cocaine use	6.6	11.9	8.8
Current cocaine use	1.5	7.0	3.8
Lifetime inhalant use	13.9	14.2	14.2
Current inhalant use	3.9	5.5	4.7
Lifetime heroin use	2.4	6.8	4.3
Lifetime methamphetamine use	7.8	10.6	9.1
Lifetime illegal steroid use	2.6	11.2	6.3
Lifetime injected illegal drug use	1.0	5.6	3.0

* Does not include data from New Orleans

- Nearly forty-five percent of Louisiana (excluding New Orleans) twelfth grade students reported lifetime marijuana use.²⁹

Percent of Students Reporting Drug Use, by Grade, Louisiana*, 2001

Drug Use and Type	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
Lifetime marijuana use	35.2	36.1	42.3	44.9
Current marijuana use	18.2	17.8	20.5	21.1
Lifetime cocaine use	7.8	10.2	6.4	10.9
Current cocaine use	3.1	4.3	2.7	4.9
Lifetime inhalant use	13.3	16.5	11.8	11.8
Current inhalant use	5.6	4.7	2.7	4.4
Lifetime heroin use	5.0	3.1	4.5	4.7
Lifetime methamphetamine use	10.1	7.3	9.7	10.3
Lifetime illegal steroid use	7.0	6.7	4.8	6.8
Lifetime injected illegal drug use	3.0	3.4	1.5	3.1

* Does not include data from New Orleans

Trafficking and Seizures

- Overland transportation using private and commercial vehicles is the most commonly encountered drug smuggling method in Louisiana.³⁰
- Nearly 4,000 cultivated marijuana plants were eradicated in Louisiana under the DEA's Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program in 2001.³¹

Number of Marijuana Plants Eradicated and Seized, Louisiana, 2001

<u>Outdoor Operations</u>		<u>Indoor Operations</u>		<u>Total</u>
<u>Plots</u>	<u>Cultivated</u>			<u>Cultivated</u>
<u>Eradicating</u>	<u>Plants</u>	<u>Grows</u>	<u>Plants</u>	<u>Plants</u>
<u>Eradicating</u>	<u>Eradicating</u>	<u>Seized</u>	<u>Eradicating</u>	<u>Eradicating</u>
110	3,348	23	466	3,814

- During 2001, Louisiana's Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force seized more than sixty-six thousand dosage units of crystal methamphetamine.³²

Amount of Drugs Seized, Multi Jurisdictional Task Force, Louisiana, 2001

<u>Drug</u>	<u>Amount seized</u>
Cocaine	417.834 kg.
Heroin	189.492 kg.
Cannabis	4,625.809 pounds
Cultivated marijuana	1,211 plants
Hallucinogens	10,483.002 dosage units (DU)
Stimulants	1,953.95 DU
Depressants	153,063.6 DU
Crystal methamphetamine	66,294.704 DU
Other/unknown	216,321.56 DU

- Federal agencies seized 605 kilograms of cocaine in Louisiana during 2001.³³

Amount of Drugs Seized by Federal Agencies, Louisiana, 2001

<u>Drug Type</u>	<u>Amount Seized</u>
Cocaine	605.0 kilograms
Heroin	17.9 kilograms
Methamphetamine	1.7 kilograms
Marijuana	4,110.5 kilograms

- There were fourteen clandestine laboratories seized in Louisiana during 2001 by DEA and state and local authorities.³⁴
- The Gulf Coast HIDTA's geographic location between the southwest border and the eastern seaboard serves as a strategic corridor for drug traffickers transshipping drugs and money to and from eastern and northern parts of the country. The area's waterways, deepwater ports, railway/highway systems, and airports are used extensively by drug trafficking and smuggling organizations.³⁵
- The growing casino gaming industry in Louisiana is attractive to drug trafficking organizations as an alternative for money laundering organizations.³⁶

Enforcement

- Gulf Coast HIDTA Initiatives found in Louisiana:³⁷
 - Middle Louisiana Drug Task Force: This initiative targets major trafficking organizations operating in the East Baton Rouge Parish area.

- Caddo/Bossier HIDTA Task Force: This task force targets major trafficking organizations operating in the Shreveport area and engages in special interdiction operations at commercial terminals.
 - Project STAR Task Force: Members of this task force target the seventeen most violent neighborhoods in Jefferson Parish.
 - Other HIDTA initiatives found in Louisiana include the following: Louisiana Operations Center; New Orleans Gang Task Force; Greater New Orleans Organized Crime Task Force; Middle Louisiana Drug Task Force; Northwest Louisiana Violent Crimes Task Force.
- As of October 31, 2000, there were 20,754 full-time law enforcement employees in Louisiana.³⁸

Courts

- Drug Courts³⁹
As of June 6, 2002, there were forty drug courts in Louisiana that were either already in operation or being planned. Twenty-one drug courts have been operating for over two years, eleven were recently implemented, and eight are being planned.
- Violent Crime/Drug Offender Prosecution Program⁴⁰
This program is geared toward the prosecution of the career criminal involved in narcotic activity.
- During FY 2001, 41.1 percent of Federally-sentenced defendants in Louisiana committed a drug offense. Approximately half of the cases involved crack cocaine.⁴¹

Federally-Sentenced Drug Offenders, by Drug Type, Louisiana, FY 2001

Drug Type	Number of Offenses	Percent of Total
Crack cocaine	178	49.0%
Powder cocaine	84	23.1
Heroin	41	11.3
Methamphetamine	29	8.0
Marijuana	21	5.8
Other drug	10	2.8

Corrections

- As of July 1, 2002, the adult population at state and local correctional facilities in Louisiana was 37,477. Nearly thirty-two percent of the inmates committed drug offenses.⁴²

Crime Committed, Adult Inmates, Louisiana, July 2002

Offense Type	Percent
Violent	37.6%
Drug	31.8
Property	20.6
All others	10.0

- There were 7,408 juveniles in the state correctional system on July 1, 2002. More than thirteen percent of those under secure custody committed drug offenses.⁴³

Type of Crime Committed and Type of Commitment, Juveniles, Louisiana, July 2002

Offense Type	Supervision	Secure custody	Non-secure custody
Violent	10.4%	26.5%	14.1%
Drug	12.1	13.4	5.8
Property	36.5	39.0	32.9
All others	41.0	21.1	47.2

- There were 35,888 probationers and 22,270 parolees under supervision of the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections on July 1, 2002. Approximately forty-one percent of probationers committed drug offenses.⁴⁴

Type of Crime Committed by Probationers and Parolees, Louisiana, July 2002

Offense Type	Probation	GTPS*	Parole
Violent	6.8%	18.9%	14.5%
Drug	40.8	39.9	54.3
Property	33.8	26.6	24.5
All others	18.6	14.6	6.7

*Good-time/parole supervision (diminution of sentence)

Consequences of Use

- From 1999 to 2001, Louisiana Coroners reported 69 deaths involving OxyContin.⁴⁵
- During 2001, there were 1,422 emergency department (ED) cocaine mentions in New Orleans.⁴⁶

Number of ED Drug Mentions, Selected Drugs, New Orleans, 1998-2001

Drug Type	1998	1999	2000	2001
Alcohol-in-combination	1,919	1,916	1,948	1,181
Cocaine	2,395	2,139	1,998	1,422
Heroin	510	649	982	530
Marijuana	1,196	1,044	1,068	814
Amphetamines	55	41	103	118
Methamphetamine	25	23	27	--
MDMA (Ecstasy)	42	51	44	34
Ketamine	5	9	4	2
LSD	77	76	35	18
PCP	9	16	16	8
Miscellaneous hallucinogens	4	--	5	4
GHB	35	78	69	72
Inhalants	8	--	0	0
Total ED drug abuse episodes	5,088	4,459	4,664	3,729
Total ED drug mentions	9,649	8,907	9,172	7,037

- During 2000, New Orleans medical examiners (ME) reported 103 drug abuse deaths. Cocaine was mentioned in 60 of the deaths.⁴⁷

Number of ME Drug Mentions Reported, New Orleans, 1996-2000

Drug Type	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Alcohol-in-combination	30	19	25	41	44
Cocaine	38	36	36	50	60
Heroin/morphine	15	16	28	37	45
Marijuana	9	13	21	21	23
Club drugs	1	--	1	4	2
Hallucinogens	--	--	--	1	--
Narcotic analgesics	7	13	21	52	25
Other analgesics	6	8	7	3	6
Benzodiazepines	2	--	14	6	13
Antidepressants	2	4	2	12	7
All other substances	4	15	12	37	25
Total drug deaths	60	56	76	94	103
Total drug mentions	114	124	167	264	250

Treatment

- During 2001, nearly 21,000 people were admitted to drug/alcohol treatment in Louisiana. Twenty-three percent (4,832) of those treated reported marijuana as their primary substance of abuse.⁴⁸

Primary Substance of Abuse Among Treatment Clients, Louisiana, 2001

Substance	Clients	Percent
Alcohol only	3,181	15.1%
Alcohol with secondary drug	4,556	21.7
Heroin	428	2.0
Other opiates	994	4.7
Smoked cocaine	4,607	21.9
Cocaine – other route	844	4.0
Marijuana	4,832	23.0
Amphetamines	201	1.0
Other stimulants	10	0.0
Tranquilizers	167	0.8
Sedatives	142	0.7
Hallucinogens	55	0.3
PCP	9	0.0
Inhalants	11	0.1
Other/none specified	961	4.6
Total	20,998	100.0

Sources

- ¹ U.S. Census Bureau Web site: <http://www.census.gov/>
- ² Louisiana Governor Web site: <http://www.gov.state.la.us/>
- ³ Louisiana Lt. Governor Web site: <http://www.crt.state.la.us/crt/lrgov/lrgov.htm>
- ⁴ Louisiana Attorney General Web site: <http://www.ag.state.la.us/>
- ⁵ Louisiana Secretary of State Web site: <http://www.sec.state.la.us/>
- ⁶ U.S. Senate Web site: <http://www.senate.gov/>
- ⁷ U.S. House of Representatives Web site: <http://clerk.house.gov/members/index.php>
- ⁸ U.S. Census Bureau Web site: <http://www.census.gov/>
- ⁹ Office of National Drug Control Policy, Gulf Coast High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Web site: http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/hidta/frames_gulf.html
- ¹⁰ Drug-Free Communities Support Program Web site: <http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/dfcs/index.html>
- ¹¹ Executive Office for Weed and Seed Data Center, Louisiana section: <http://www.weedandseeddatacenter.org/louisiana.html>
- ¹² Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Formula and Discretionary Grant Allotments Summary: <http://www.samhsa.gov/funding/funding.html>
- ¹³ Bureau of Justice Assistance, FY 2002 Byrne Formula Grant Program State Allocations: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/html/FY2002BYRNE.htm>
- ¹⁴ Office of Justice Programs, Corrections Program Office, State-by-State Grant Activities: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/cpo/>
- ¹⁵ Office of National Drug Control Policy, Gulf Coast High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Web site: http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/hidta/frames_gulf.html
- ¹⁶ Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States, 2000*, October 2001: <http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/00cius.htm>
- ¹⁷ Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice, *2001 Annual Report to the Bureau of Justice Assistance*
- ¹⁸ Ibid.
- ¹⁹ National Institute of Justice, *Preliminary Data on Drug Use and Related Matters Among Adult Male Arrestees, January – September 2001* 2002: http://www.adam-nij.net/files/2001_Preliminary_Data.pdf
- ²⁰ National Drug Intelligence Center, *Louisiana Drug Threat Assessment*, May 2001: <http://www.usdoj.gov/ndic/pubs/666/index.htm>
- ²¹ Drug Enforcement Administration, State Factsheet: Louisiana: <http://www.dea.gov/pubs/states/louisiana.html>
- ²² National Drug Intelligence Center, *Louisiana Drug Threat Assessment*, May 2001: <http://www.usdoj.gov/ndic/pubs/666/index.htm>
- ²³ Ibid.
- ²⁴ Drug Enforcement Administration, State Factsheet: Louisiana: <http://www.dea.gov/pubs/states/louisiana.html>
- ²⁵ National Drug Intelligence Center, *Louisiana Drug Threat Assessment*, May 2001: <http://www.usdoj.gov/ndic/pubs/666/index.htm>
- ²⁶ Drug Enforcement Administration, State Factsheet: Louisiana: <http://www.dea.gov/pubs/states/louisiana.html>
- ²⁷ Ibid.
- ²⁸ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance-United States, 2001*, June 2002: <http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/YRBSS/index.asp>
- ²⁹ Ibid.
- ³⁰ Drug Enforcement Administration, State Factsheet: Louisiana: <http://www.dea.gov/pubs/states/louisiana.html>
- ³¹ Bureau of Justice Statistics, Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics Online: <http://www.albany.edu/sourcebook/>
- ³² Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice, *2001 Annual Report to the Bureau of Justice Assistance*
- ³³ Drug Enforcement Administration, State Factsheet: Louisiana: <http://www.dea.gov/pubs/states/louisiana.html>
- ³⁴ Ibid.

-
- ³⁵ Office of National Drug Control Policy, Gulf Coast High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Web site: http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/hidta/frames_gulf.html
- ³⁶ Ibid.
- ³⁷ Ibid.
- ³⁸ Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States, 2000*, October 2001: <http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/00cius.htm>
- ³⁹ Office of Justice Programs Drug Court Clearinghouse and Technical Assistance Project, *Summary of Drug Court Activity by State and County*, June 6, 2002
- ⁴⁰ Louisiana Department of Justice Divisions: <http://www.ag.state.la.us/divisions.shtml#crime>
- ⁴¹ U.S. Sentencing Commission, FY 2001 Federal Sentencing Statistics, Louisiana section: <http://www.ussc.gov/JUDPACK/2001/la01.pdf>
- ⁴² Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections, Statistics Briefing Book: <http://www.corrections.state.la.us/stats2.htm>
- ⁴³ Ibid.
- ⁴⁴ Ibid.
- ⁴⁵ Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, Office for Addictive Disorders, *OxyContin Study*, March 2002: <http://www.dhh.state.la.us/OADA/PDF%20Files/OxyContin-Report/4-2002-OAD-OxyContinReport.pdf>
- ⁴⁶ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, *Emergency Department Trends from the Drug Abuse Warning Network: Final Estimates 1994-2001*, August 2002: <http://www.samhsa.gov/oas/DAWN/Final2k1EDtrends/text/EDtrend2001v6.pdf>
- ⁴⁷ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, *Mortality Data from the Drug Abuse Warning Network, 2000*, January 2002: <http://www.samhsa.gov/oas/DAWN/mortality2k.pdf>
- ⁴⁸ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, State Treatment Data, Louisiana section: <http://www.dasis.samhsa.gov/webt/quicklink/LA01.htm>

This State Profile was prepared by the ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse. The Clearinghouse is funded by the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy and is a component of the [National Criminal Justice Reference Service](#). For further information concerning the contents of this profile or other drug policy issues, contact:

The Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse
PO Box 6000
Rockville, MD 20849-6000
1-800-666-3332
<http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov>
ondcp@ncjrs.org

